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*Seventh Meeting, February 27th, 1865.*

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*J. R. Brown, Esq. ; Edgar A. Drummond, Esq.*

ELECTIONS.—*James P. Allen, Esq. ; J. Bonwick, Esq. ; James C. Cleghorn, Esq. ; The Hon. Robert Curzon ; Wm. Barrington d'Almeida, Esq. ; Alexandre de Laske, Esq. ; Ney Elias, Esq. ; S. L. Fitzwilliam, Esq. ; Thomas Fuller, Esq. ; Capt. G. H. Gardner, R.N. ; Edward Harvey, Esq. ; Samuel S. Hill, Esq. ; J. W. Kaye, Esq. ; W. H. Le Feuvre, Esq., C.E. ; Charles J. Meller, Esq., M.D. ; Wm. H. Mitchell, Esq. ; G. Perry, Esq. ; Francisco E. Pereira, Esq. ; Rev. F. Pigou, M.A. ; Guildford Smith, Esq. ; Francis R. Spry, Esq. ; Major A. Y. Sinclair ; Hugh L. Taylor, Esq. ; George Vane, Esq. ; Lieut.-Colonel William Wood, R.M.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY.—‘Madagascar and its People,’ presented by the author, Lyons McLeod, Esq. ‘Geography of Australia and New Zealand,’ by James Bonwick, Esq. ‘Astronomy for Young Australians,’ by the same author: both presented by Sir Roderick I. Murchison, K.C.B. ‘Report on the Formation of Canterbury Plains,’ with a Geological Sketch-Map and Five Sections, by Julius Haast, F.G.S., &c. ; ‘Report on the Survey of the Province of Canterbury,’ by Julius Haast, F.G.S., &c. : both presented by the author. Continuations of Transactions, &c.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM.—Ordnance Maps: viz. various Parishes on 69 sheets.

Previous to the reading of the Papers, the President spoke as follows:—

“We are assembled this evening to take into consideration two communications, which will necessarily reopen and extend discussion on the subject of a North-Polar Expedition; and as my gallant and distinguished friend Capt. Sherard Osborn is about to leave this country for India, you will all agree with me that it is most desirable we should avail ourselves of his presence on this occasion. The first Paper, by our Secretary, Mr. Markham, himself formerly an Arctic explorér, will put before you much curious knowledge relating to the origin and migrations of the Northern Esquimaux, and will elicit from the naturalists and ethnologists who are present observations which cannot but tend to strengthen and enlarge the grounds on which, as geographers, we must desire to see our acquaintance with the North Polar regions vastly extended. The second communication is from our Honorary Fellow and Correspondent, Dr. Augustus Petermann, of Gotha. This paper was prepared with the view of being read at our last meeting, but it arrived too late. Rejoicing to see the Royal Geographical Society

take the lead in suggesting an exploration of the North Polar region, Dr. Petermann, whose numerous writings on this subject have formerly met with so much attention, shows that the easiest and shortest line of research by which the North Pole can be reached is by Spitzbergen. But though this is his favourite scheme, and it was long ago (and before steam-navigation) the plan of Parry and Sabine, Dr. Petermann would rejoice if either of those expeditions could be set on foot by the British nation, whether by Baffin's Bay and the west of Greenland, or by Spitzbergen. Before these communications are read, I have great satisfaction in announcing that the Council of the Royal Society thus express their opinion as to the scientific results to be attained by such an exploration as that which has been suggested by Capt. Sherard Osborn :—

“ ‘The President and Council do on this occasion desire to take the opportunity of stating their full persuasion that the expedition now contemplated by the Royal Geographical Society might, by proper arrangements, be rendered highly advantageous in the advancement of several branches of physical science.’

“ Thus fortified by the good will of the Royal Society, the Council of our own body have resolved to appeal to other scientific Societies of the metropolis, expressing the hope that they will unite with us in urging Her Majesty's Government to fit out such a scientific expedition as will redound to the honour and reputation of England, will once more bring into active service those Arctic surveyors whose deeds have obtained for them the highest estimation both abroad and at home, and will further inspirit and instruct young naval officers, who, if they live till the year 1882, will be thus rendered competent to conduct astronomers to the best sites for observing, in the Antarctic region, the transit of Venus which will then occur.”

The first Paper was—

1.—*On the Origin and Migrations of the Greenland Esquimaux.*  
By CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM, Esq., Secretary R.G.S.

Mr. MARKHAM began by saying that the proposition for a North Polar Expedition had touched a chord which vibrated through the hearts of the countrymen of Drake and Raleigh with answering sympathy. Amongst the scientific results which would flow from such an expedition, not the least important were those connected with the distribution of the tribes of Esquimaux. Throughout the most desert wastes of the explored part of the Arctic Zone are found abundant traces of former inhabitants; where now all is a silent solitude were found ruined stone dwellings, bones of animals cut